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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/160,267	09/24/1998	MASAMI TOYAMA	05058/76501	6140

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624
DATE MAILED: 01/16/2002
20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/160,267

Applicant(s)

TOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-25 and 32-39 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-25, 32-39 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 11/30/01 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/160267 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. (US Patent No. 5,602,625).

As to claim 32, Okamoto teaches:

an image processing section (128 in fig. 1) for processing an image in a plurality of operational modes (108-110 in fig. 4);
a display device (fig. 4) for displaying information on a screen thereof, the display device displaying information on a predetermined area of the screen in a plurality of manners in response to a display signal (col. 6, lines 1-4; col. 21, line 65 through col. 22, line 3);
controller (143 in fig. 1) for determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a color display signal to the display device to change the manner in which the predetermined area of the screen (i.e., up and right corner of fig. 83-86, 88-91, 93-100)

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according to the determined operation mode (col. 21, lines 25-40; col. 27, lines 40-51 and col. 45, lines 15-26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 14, 17-19, 22, 33-36, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Okamoto et al. (US Patent No. 5,602,625) and Knodt et al. (US Patent No. 5,987,535).

As to claim 1, Okamoto teaches:

an image forming section (128 in fig. 1) for forming an image in a plurality of operational modes (108-110 in fig. 4);

a display device (fig. 4) for displaying information on a screen thereof, the display device displaying information on a predetermined area of the screen in a plurality of colors in response to a color display signal (col. 6, lines 1-4; col. 21, line 65 through col. 22, line 3);

controller (143 in fig. 1) for determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a color display signal to the display device the color to be displayed on the predetermined area of the screen (i.e., up and right corner of fig. 83-86, 88-91, 93-100) according to the determined operation mode (col. 21, lines 25-40; col. 27, lines 40-51 and col. 45, lines 15-26).

Although Okamoto does not teach color display to the display device is changed according to determined operation mode, Okamoto teaches there are different color values associating with the dynamic data are displayed in the display device (col. 21, lines 30-35 and col. 21, line 65 through col. 22, line 3 and col. 45, lines 15-26), it would have been obvious for changing the color on the display device according to the determined operation mode. Furthermore, Knodt also teaches more details how information signal is changed on the display device according to the determined operation mode (steps of 90-100 in fig. 14).

It would have been obvious to have modified the color displaying information of Okamoto in order to be changed on the display device according to the determined operation mode as taught by Knodt. The suggestion of modifying the system of Okamoto can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Knodt because Knodt provides a technique of immediate presentation to an operator of the information values displays in the display means. Therefore, the system of Knodt is particular suited for an interactive computer graphics system of Okamoto in that it provides comfortable features to the user so that the user easily to control any function in the apparatus.

As to claims 4-5, Knodt teaches copy mode (53 in fig. 2) and fax mode (56 in fig. 2) displayed in the display device (fig. 2).

As to claim 6, Okamoto teaches controller sets a background color of the predetermined area of the screen in response to the color display signal (col. 45, lines 15-26).

As to claim 9, Okamoto teaches program registration means for registering a plurality of combinations of image forming conditions; and setting means for setting an operational mode by

calling a combination of image forming conditions registered by the program registration means (col. 21, lines 25-50).

As to claims 14, 19, and 22, due to the similarities of these claims to those of claims 1, 6, and 9, these claims are rejected as the reason and motivation applied to claims 1,6, and 9.

As to claims 17-18, due to similarity of these claims to those of claims 4-5, these claims are rejected as the reason and motivation applied to claims 4-5.

As to claim 33, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 1 including a memory device for storing color information in association with a plurality of identification codes (col. 35, lines 3-20) , this claim is rejected as the reason applied to claim 1.

As to claim 34, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 1, this claim is rejected as the reason applied to claim 1.

As to claims 35 and 36, due to the similarity of this claim to those of claims 1 and 4-5, this claim is rejected as the reason applied to claims 1 and 4-5.

As to claim 38, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 1 including setting means for setting the image processing condition, wherein the plurality of parameters are classified into a basic function and an application function (see fig. 14), this claim is rejected as the reason applied to claim 1.

As to claim 39, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 33 including selection means for selecting one of the plurality of programs stored in the memory device (col. 35, lines 2-8), this claim is rejected as the reason applied to claim 33.

6. Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-12, 15-16, 20-21, 23-25 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Okamoto and Knodt as applied to claims 1 and 14, and Kajita (US Patent No. 5,999,708).

As to claims 2-3, the combination of Okamoto and Knodt teaches the feature in claim 1 except operator entering identification and the image forming section performing jobs is associated with one of modes.

Kajita teaches input means for entering an identification signal for identifying an operator (704 in fig. 7, col. 5, lines 21-26), and the image forming section (117 in fig. 1) is capable of sequentially executing a plurality of jobs, and each job is associated with one of the plurality of operational modes (i.e., print mode 402 in fig. 4).

It would have been obvious to have modified the system of Okamoto and Knodt for entering the password by the operator and selecting the printing mode of a plurality of modes for executing the print job as taught by Kajita. The suggestion of modifying the system of Okamoto and Knodt can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Kajita because Kajita provides a security function which just allow a particular operator to select a particular mode such as a printing mode for only executing the print job.

As to claims 10-12, the combination of Okamoto and Knodt teaches the feature in claim 1. Furthermore, Sato teaches the regions are displayed with a background colors is set according to the color value (col. 15, lines 1-12).

However, the combination of Okamoto and Knodt does not teach a second setting means regarding a second function in associated with a first setting means regarding a first function, and both function are simultaneously displayed in sectionalized regions in a display device.

Kajita teaches first setting means for setting an image forming condition regarding a first function (i.e., enlargement in fig. 15), and second setting means regarding a second function (i.e., arrow associated with enlargement or number 1506 associated with copy mode in fig. 15) in association with the first setting means; the first function and the second function are simultaneously displayed in sectionalized regions in a display device (see 1501 and 1506 in fig. 15).

It would have been obvious to have modified the system of Okamoto and Knodt for display a second setting means regarding a second function in association with a first setting means regarding a first function, and both function are simultaneously displayed in sectionalized regions in a display device as taught by Kajita. The suggestion of modifying the system of Okamoto and Knodt can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Kajita because Kajita provides the graphical user interface displays a plurality of functions associated together and in the same window which allows the user to easily set a plurality of functions when these functions are displayed in the same window.

As to claims 7-8, due to similarity of these claims to those of claims 10-11, these claims are rejected as the reason and motivation applied to claims 10-11.

As to claims 15-16, 20-21, and 23-25, due to similarity of these claims to those of claims 2-3, 7-8 and 10-12, these claims are rejected as the reason and motivation applied to claims 2-3, 7-8 and 10-12.

As to claim 37, due to similarity of this claim to those of claims 1 and 10-11, these claims are rejected as the reason and motivation applied to claims 1 and 10-11.

Response to Arguments and Amendment

Applicant's amendment and arguments with respect to claims 1-12, 14-25, and 32, with added claims 32-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. This action is made **non-final**.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or e-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Jan. 12, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DOUGLAS Q. TRAN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent, curved initial 'D'.